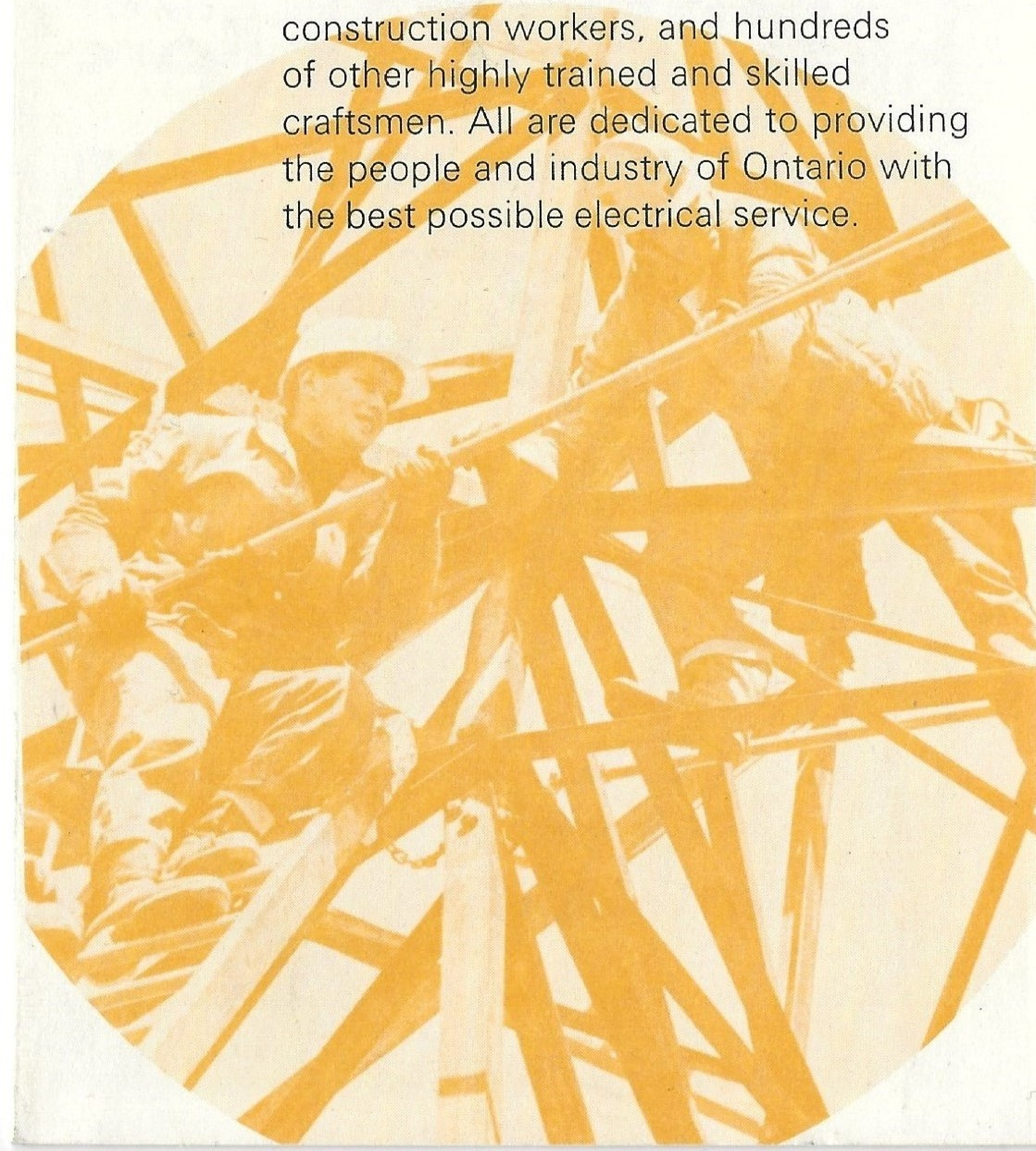
ontario hydro

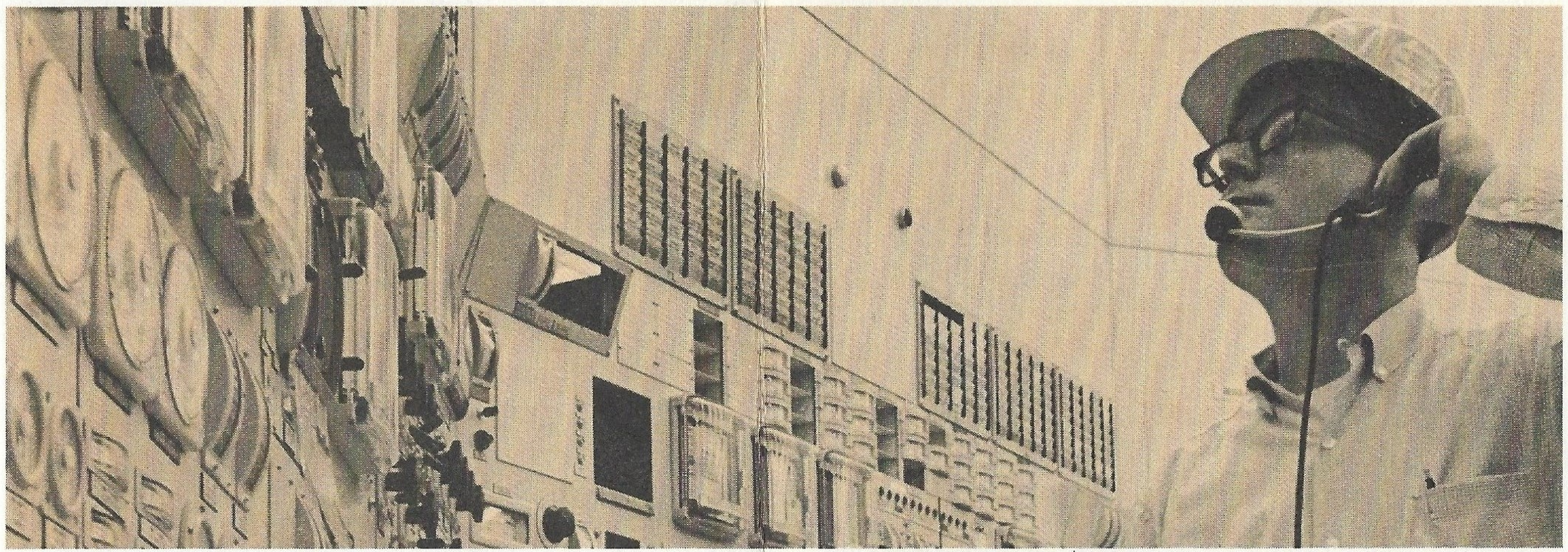
power people

hydro is people

There are more than 30,000 power people in Ontario. One in every three is employed by the more than 350 electrical utilities serving our municipalities—the rest work for Ontario Hydro in producing and distributing electricity to every corner of this vast province. Each has his own particular skill—together they form a team of specialists in service.

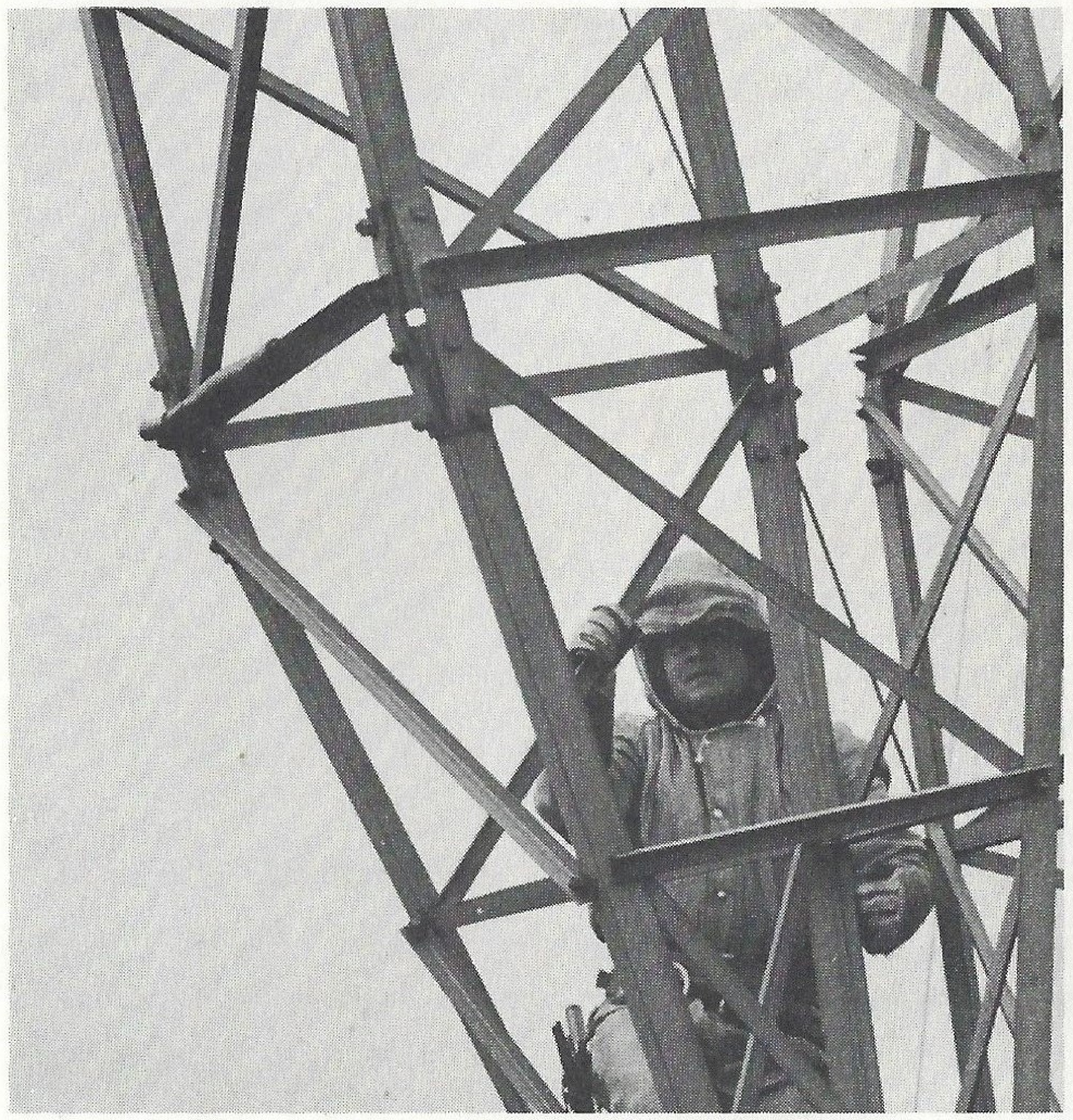
Power people are linemen, foresters, operators, typists, pilots, frogmen, chemists, geologists, engineers, construction workers, and hundreds of other highly trained and skilled craftsmen. All are dedicated to providing the people and industry of Ontario with the best possible electrical service.





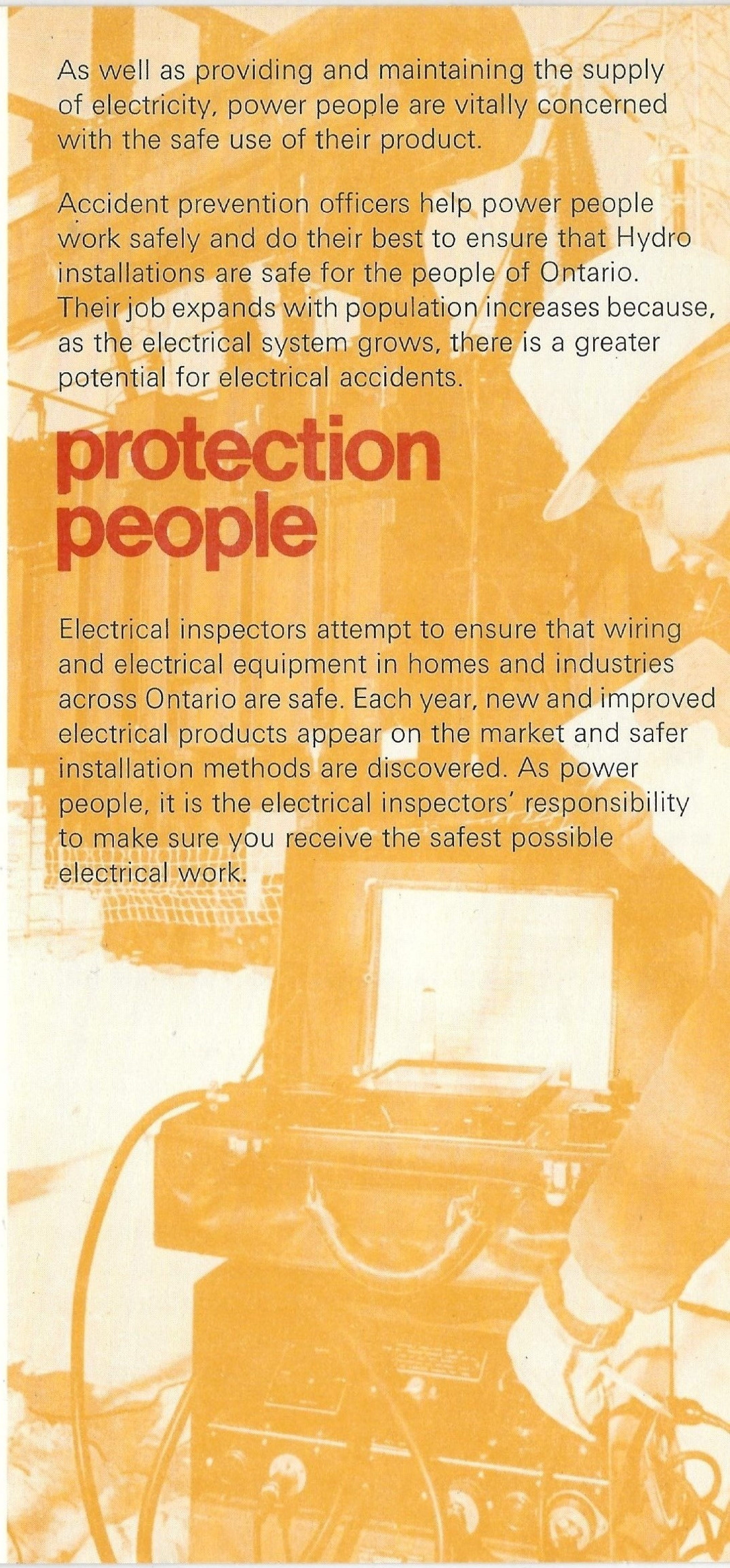
At Douglas Point, midway between Kincardine and Port Elgin on Lake Huron, power people produce electricity from Canada's first full-scale nuclear power station.

high-voltage highway travellers



Modern techniques and materials—many of them specifically developed for the job—enable Hydro linemen to maintain and improve the high standard of electrical service enjoyed by the people of Ontario. Bucket trucks, helicopters, cable cars and special equipment now make it possible for linemen to work on lines carrying up to 500,000 volts without interrupting the supply of power.

One of the most recent developments in live-line work is a specially designed protective suit used by linemen who work on lines carrying up to 500,000 volts. The non-metallic suit is criss-crossed with carbonized nylon thread to create a protective shield around the lineman so all parts of his body receive the same charge. Specially designed boots, socks, gloves, and bonding wand complete his protection.



As well as providing and maintaining the supply of electricity, power people are vitally concerned with the safe use of their product.

Accident prevention officers help power people work safely and do their best to ensure that Hydro installations are safe for the people of Ontario. Their job expands with population increases because, as the electrical system grows, there is a greater potential for electrical accidents.

protection people

Electrical inspectors attempt to ensure that wiring and electrical equipment in homes and industries across Ontario are safe. Each year, new and improved electrical products appear on the market and safer installation methods are discovered. As power people, it is the electrical inspectors' responsibility to make sure you receive the safest possible electrical work.

Operating Hydro's fleet of 12 helicopters doing a variety of jobs across the province, pilots spend about 6,000 hours a year flying thousands of miles.

One of the most important jobs carried out by helicopters is patrolling transmission lines. The pilot's skill is tested by flying within 50 feet of high-voltage lines, while the observer, who must have perfect eyesight and at least 12 years' experience in line work, keeps a sharp look-out for potential trouble spots.

air-borne power people

But pilots do a multitude of jobs in assisting other power people in their work. They fly men and materials into remote locations; they help string lines; spray transmission line rights-of-way, and even place towers and hydro poles during construction of new lines.

In times of emergency, Hydro pilots have also been called on to fight forest fires and help in air searches and rescue operations.

three sources of power

Ontario Hydro is a publicly-owned, financially self-supporting utility which produces and distributes electric power, in partnership with more than 350 associated municipal electric utilities, to over 2.3 million customers—or more than 95 per cent of Ontario's population.

Power is provided at cost to the homes, farms, factories and businesses of Ontario.

With generating resources of over eleven million kilowatts, assets totalling well over $4 billion and a 250,000-square-mile operating area, Hydro is the second largest electrical utility in North America.

Hydro uses three major sources of energy in supplying the electric power needs of the province -falling water, fossil-fuels and uranium

Hydro has 67 generating stations on river sites suitable for the production of power. Water is controlled behind dams and released down tubes to strike the blades of turbines.

With few water power sites remaining to be developed in Ontario, Hydro has turned to steam plants – both fossil-fuelled and nuclear – to meet demands which double about every 10 years.

In 1951, Hydro brought its first major coal-fired station into production. Today it has seven fossil-fuelled plants—five operating and two under construction.

Nuclear power stations are a new—but proven—kind of steam plant. Instead of burning coal or oil, they use uranium and a controlled nuclear chain reaction to produce a steady flow of heat for steam production.

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